

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRUCULTURE

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TAGS: EAGR, EAID, SCUL, CH, US

SUBJECT: CONGEN BRIEFS TWO U.S. SCIENTIFIC DELEGATIONS ENROUTE PRC

SUMMARY IN PAST TEN DAYS TWO US SCIENTIFIC DELEGATIONS
TRANSITING HONG KONG EN ROUTE PRC WERE BRIEFED BY CONGEN
ON CURRENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION
IN PRC. WATER RESOURCES AND PLANT SCIENCES DELEGATIONS ARE
U.S. COUNTERPARTS OF RECIPROCAL, RELATED PRC MISSIONS TO
THE U.S. WE HOPE TO TALK WITH BOTH GROUPS UPON THEIR RETURN.

END SUMMARY.

1. ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, CONSUL GENERAL AND CONGEN OFFICERS
BRIEFED 12-MAN TEAM OF WATER RESOURCES SPECIALISTS ON PRC'S
CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL,
GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. TEAM,
HEADED BY DR. MAURICE L. ALBERTSON, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY,
ENTERED PRC AUGUST 19 FOR ONE-MONTH TOUR OF WATER CONSERVANCY
PROJECTS. THIS VISIT RECIPROCATES 1973 US VISIT OF PRC WATER
CONSERVATIONS TEAM HEADED BY PROF YEN K'AI, PRESIDENT
OF EAST CHINA WATER CONSERVANCY COLLEGE.

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2. ON AUGUST 26, CONSUL GENERAL AND CONGEN OFFICERS GAVE SIMILAR BRIEFING TO 12-MAN PLANT SCIENCES DELEGATION HEADED BY DR. STERLING WORTMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT, ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION. THIS HIGH-LEVEL TEAM INCLUDED DR. NORMAN BORLAUG (NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, 1970) AND OTHER LEADING AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS. (WE UNDERSTAND AN PRC AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN THE US THIS WEEKEND FOR RECIPROCAL TOUR.)

3. SEVERAL DISTINCTIONS NOTED BETWEEN GROUPS INCLUDE:

(A) WATER RESOURCES TEAM "ON THEIR OWN" FOR EXPENSES WITHIN PRC, WHEREAS PLANT SCIENTISTS ARE LITERALLY GUESTS OF PRC WITH ALL EXPENSES PAID WHILE IN COUNTRY.

(B) WATER RESOURCES TEAM ORIGINAL SCHEDULE CALLED FOR DIRECT FLIGHT FROM CANTON TO PEKING, WITH INTERNAL TRAVEL ITINERARY LAID OUT IN ADVANCE. REVISED SCHEDULE (NOT AVAILABLE HERE) CHANGED ITINERARY TO PROGRESSIVE VISITS TO SOUTH CHINA AND YANGTZE REGIONS BEFORE ARRIVING PEKING WEEK OR SO AFTER ENTRY INTO PRC. PLANT SCIENTISTS, ON THE CONTRARY, HAD NO IDEA OF INTERNAL ITINERARY BEFORE LEAVING HONG KONG FOR BORDER YESTERDAY.

(C) WATER RESOURCES TEAM INCLUDED TWO ETHNIC CHINESE AND TWO OTHER "CHINESE SPEAKERS," BUT NO USG OFFICIALS AND NO CSC ESCORT. PLANT SCIENTISTS HAD NO ETHNIC CHINESE BUT TWO CHINESE SPEAKERS INCLUDING CSC ESCORT DE ANGELIS AND U. OF CHICAGO CHINESE HISTORY PROFESSOR KUHN. THREE USDA SCIENTISTS ARE ON DELEGATION.

(C) IT IS NOT KNOWN IN WHAT FORM WATER RESOURCES DELEGATION WILL REPORT THEIR OBSERVATIONS BUT WORTMAN GROUP PLANS 2-DAY STOPOVER IN HONG KONG ON WAY OUT IN ORDER PREPARE TEAM REPORT BEFORE SPLITTING UP.

4. BOTH DELEGATIONS APPEARED REASONABLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT PRC AND INTENSELY INTERESTED IN OPPORTUNITIES FOR OBSERVATION AND CONTACT OFFERED BY THEIR VISIT. PLANT SCIENCES DELEGATION, IN PARTICULAR, EXPRESSED HOPES OF INITIATING GRADUAL EXCHANGE OF PLANT MATERIALS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCIENTISTS WITH MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RESULTS.

5. FOR USLO: BECAUSE OF INTEREST OF SEVERAL CONGEN STAFF IN MEETING MEMBERS OF WATER RESOURCES TEAM DURING SEPT. 19-20 STOPOVER HERE, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERLINING THAT INTEREST IN ANY DISCUSSION WITH ALBERTSON IN PEKING AND SUGGESTING HE CONTACT US ON ARRIVAL HONG KONG. (DURING OUR BRIEFING, WE HAD ASKED FOR THAT OPPORTUNITY BUT COMMITMENT

OF ALBERTSON FOR ANY SUCH MEETING WAS VAGUE.) WORTMAN HAS
ALREADY TOLD US THAT MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP WOULD STOP BY
AFTER EXITING PRC.
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